

Every Woman's Life

A Virginia Department of Health Program

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Every Woman's Life program (EWL) began in 1997 with funding obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. EWL provides low-income, uninsured and underinsured women access to timely, high-quality screening and diagnostic services to detect breast and cervical cancer at the earliest stages.

EWL currently receives over \$2.5 million of federal and state funds each year. EWL has 25 enrollment sites across the state, with a network of approximately 300 healthcare providers who perform clinical breast exams, mammograms, pelvic exams, Pap tests and diagnostic tests for enrolled women. Legislation passed in 2001 by the Virginia General Assembly makes it possible for most EWL clients, diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, to receive treatment under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Based on U.S. census data, an estimated 140,749 women aged 18-64 in Virginia are eligible for the EWL program.¹ In SFY 2021, EWL served approximately 3,770. This means that only 3% of eligible women were served by EWL. To be eligible, women must be 18-64 years of age (women aged 18-39 must be symptomatic for breast or cervical cancer), reside in Virginia, have an income at or less than 250% of the Federal Poverty Level, and no health insurance.

Accomplishments from June 30, 1997 – September 21, 2021

Number of women served by EWL 65,418	
Number of EWL funded mammograms performed 124,996	Number of EWL funded Pap tests performed 59,298
Percentage of abnormal mammograms ² 14%	Percentage of abnormal Pap tests ² 14%
Breast Cancers Diagnosed 2,630	Cervical dysplasias diagnosed 1,491 (CIN II and CIN III) Invasive cervical cancer diagnosed 92

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¹ Population data from U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. The difference in percentage served from past reports, is the result of a change in calculation and a switch to the use of the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates to calculate population estimates. This new dataset, made available in 2014, allows National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection programs to more accurately estimate numbers of their eligible population at the state and county level.

² These numbers do not include EWL clients who had abnormal mammogram or pap tests paid for through other funding sources, as a result the percentages included are an underestimate for the program as a whole.